



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Pilliga Mouse

2020-2021 annual report card

Overall status*



Populations at all sites are known to be on track.



Threat management is known to be on track at all sites, and population status is unknown at one or more sites.



Threat management is known to be off track at one or more sites, and population status is unknown at one or more sites.



Populations at one or more sites are known to be off track.

* For SoS priority management sites (may not include all locations where the species occurs in NSW)

Summary

Management sites	Pilliga
Action implementation	1 (of 1) management action was fully or partially implemented as planned for the financial year.
Total expenditure	\$17,576 (\$6,295 cash; \$11,281 in-kind)
Partners	Environment, Energy and Science



Scientific name:

Pseudomys pilligaensis

NSW status:

Vulnerable

Commonwealth status:

Vulnerable

Management stream:

Site-managed species

Photo: Justin Mallee

Priority management site: Pilliga

<p>Local government area: Gunnedah; Narrabri; Warrumbungle</p> <p>Partners: Environment, Energy and Science</p>	<p>Population outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On track ● On track (inferred) ● Not on track (inferred) ● Not on track <p>The species population is inferred to be on track based on threat management being on track. The population trend is unknown at this time.</p>
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Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Baseline monitoring conducted.

Monitoring metric	Species abundance
Monitoring result	Population monitoring cameras were unable to be deployed during 2020—21, due to the persistent rainfall across summer and into autumn 2021 which limited access into the Pilliga reserves. However, the significant rainfall events and improved seasonal conditions over the summer period of 2020—21 following the prolonged period of drought, saw good growth of ground covers and seeding of grasses which will benefit the species.
Scientific rigour of monitoring method	Not applicable
Conducted by	Environment, Energy and Science

Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Environment, Energy and Science	\$6,295	\$11,281

Management actions

The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2020-2021 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Predation - by feral predators (fox, cat and pig) may also influence the continued existence of this species.	Implement annual ground baiting program for feral vertebrate predators	Yes

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Predation - by feral predators (fox, cat and pig) may also influence the continued existence of this species.	Maintain fox and feral cat incursions at less 5% of monitored nights annually across the site.	Not assessed
Inappropriate fire regimes.	Action not required this year	Not assessed

Site summary

Significant rainfall events and improved seasonal conditions over the summer period of 2020—2021 that followed on from a prolonged period of drought saw good growth of ground covers and seeding of grasses. However, the persistent rainfall across summer and into autumn 2021 limited access into the Pilliga reserves, making it difficult to service camera traps and undertake species monitoring.

Refinements were made to the equipment used in the experimental camera trapping technique that were aimed at improving the detection and identification reliability of small mammals. The cameras were modified and workshop tested to capture images of mice at a range of 70 cm (compared to the standard focal length of 2 m). This modification is intended to increase the number of pixels that a small mammal occupies in the image thereby enhancing resolution and ability to identify the species. Staff resourcing coupled with Branch and post-fire pest management priorities resulted in the population monitoring cameras not being deployed during the 2020—21.

Fox ground baiting was undertaken across the National Parks and Wildlife Service managed reserves for 2 months in mid 2020 and one month in mid 2021.

Saving our Species 2020-2021 annual report card for Pilliga Mouse (*Pseudomys pilligaensis*). For more information refer to the specific strategy in the Saving our Species program.